

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01
SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-05
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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3086

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5011

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON EGEN UNCTAD
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COMMODITIES - UNCTAD
COMMON FUND MEETING NOVEMBER 7-DECEMBER 2

REF A, STATE 191312, B, STATE 214220

1. DURING E/C COUNSELOR'S MID-AUGUST COURTESY CALL ON DR. ZINE EL ABIDINE ALAOUI, DIRECTOR OF THE ECONOMIC DIVISION OF MOROCCAN MOFA, LATTER REMARKED THAT HE WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSEMBLING AND CHAIRING INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP GOM POSITON ON COMMON FUND NEGOTIATIONS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT, IN VIEW OF HOLIDAY SEASON, ONSET OF RAMADAN, AND EXPECTED POST-RAMADAN CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT, LITTLE WOULD BE KNOWN ABOUT THE COMPOSITION OR INSTRUCTIONS OF THE DELEGATION BEFORE LATE SEPTEMBER. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT E/C COUNSELOR CHECK BACK WITH HIM IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING, SEPTEMBER 8, ALAOUI STATED THAT THE MOROCCAN POSITION ON THE COMMON FUND WOULD BE FORMUALTED IN TANDEM WITH, BUT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE A DUPLICATE OF, THOSE OF OTHER AFRICAN NATIONS. IN ANY CASE, A FIRM GOM POSITION WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE PRIOR
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TO A SPECIAL OAU MEETING, TO BE HELD IN ADDIS ABABA SOMETIME DURING EARLY NOVEMBER. HE FURTHER STATED THAT COMPOSITION OF GOM DELEGATION TO OAU MEETING HAD NOT YET BEEN DECIDED, ALTHOUGH THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION WOULD BE FROM MOFA, AS WOULD HEAD OF DELEGATION TO UNCTAD MEETING. ALAOUI CONCLUDED THAT HE WOULD BE GLAD TO PROVIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING GOM'S POSITION ON THE COMMON FUND

AFTER THE ADDIS ABABA MEETING.

3. COMMENT: ALAOUI CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN VIRTUALLY TOTAL BLACKOUT ON SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF COMMON FUND, REFLECTING PERHAPS LACK OF INTERNAL GOM PREPARATION, AS WELL AS UNWILLINGNESS TO TIP HAND BEFORE AFRICAN COUNTRIES SORT THEIR POSITIONS OUT. PROCEDURALLY, IF THE OAU MEETING ON THE COMMON FUND DOES NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER, WE SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF ALAOUI PROVIDING US WITH A SYNOPSIS OF MOROCCAN -- AND BY INFERENCE , AFRICAN -- POSITIONS BEFORE ACTUAL START OF UNCTAD CONFERENCE.

4. ALAOUI EXPRESSED INTEREST IN E/C COUNSELOR'S GENERAL REVIEW OF U.S. VIEWS ON COMMON FUND, AND IN RESPONSE TO INDIRECT SUGGESTION, SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE OBTAINING PRECISE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE U.S. STANCE ON THE COMMON FUND AS WELL AS OTHER MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES. IN VIEW OF CURRENT STATE OF GOM THINKING, AS WELL AS TIMING FACTORS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE SENDING AN EXPERT TO RABAT IS WARRANTED. ANDERSON

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